

DONALD AND ELEANOR REGAN  
BARRETT, UNITED STATES VET-  
ERANS

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, several months after his 18th birthday, Donald Barrett joined the United States Marine Corps at a time when his country needed him most. When he enlisted, it was just weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the beginning of World War II.

During his military career, Donald served the United States of America at Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Cape Gloucester and Peleliu.

For his exemplary performance during his more than 4 years of military service, Donald was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V, the Purple Heart, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, two Presidential Unit Citations and four combat ribbons.

Donald married his wife Eleanor Regan in 1947. She too bravely served her country in WWII as a member of the United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

Later, Donald graduated from the University of Baltimore in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He later received his Master of Business Administration from the University of Dayton.

During his professional career, Donald retired from the Frigidaire Division of GM, from White Consolidated and from Don Barrett Associates, Consultants.

Today, Donald and Eleanor have six children, eight grand children and three great grandchildren.

The Houston West Chamber of Commerce has chosen to recognize both Donald and Eleanor for their dedication to the United States of America. Corporal Don Barrett and Sergeant Eleanor Reagan Barrett have been awarded the Chamber's "Heart of Service Award" for their distinguished military service.

I would like to recognize Donald and Eleanor for being members of the Greatest Generation, who selflessly served to protect our country in a time of war.

The upcoming Veterans Day is a time to honor all of the brave men and women who have so proudly worn the military uniform, especially those who served in the Great World War II. Donald and Eleanor deserve the thanks of all Americans because these individuals chose to protect freedom for the rest of us and made the United States of America the best country in the world.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING TRIETSCH MEMORIAL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the churches in my district, Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church in Flower Mound, Texas, which will hold a Veterans Memorial Plaza Dedication on Sunday, November 11, 2007.

A group of members from the church once envisioned a place to honor friends and family members that have served their country in the armed services as well as veterans from their community. Now, thanks to their hard work and commitment, that vision will soon become a reality.

The design of the Memorial is a lasting tribute to veterans' achievements and sacrifices on behalf of their grateful communities. The beautiful centerpiece is an obelisk surrounded by flags representing the United States, the State of Texas, and the Armed Forces. The Memorial serves as a place of prayer for peace, and as a symbol of eternal hope for all of the men and women who continue to serve and sacrifice. It recognizes the innumerable accomplishments of our military and forever commemorates their endeavors as servants of our great nation and also the State of Texas.

The Veterans Memorial Plaza is an accomplishment that I and everyone in the 26th District of Texas can look upon with pride. I offer my congratulations to Reverends Jim Ozier, John Allen and the members of Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church. It is my honor to represent them in Congress.

### TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF NORMA ANDERSON LOFTEN

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Norma Anderson Loften, who passed away on November 1, 2007, in her hometown, Beaumont, Texas, at the age of 76.

Ms. Loften was a dear friend who personified all the values that we cherish as Americans: a deep and abiding religious faith, devotion to her family, compassion for those in need, and a commitment to education and hard work.

I first met Norma and her late twin sister Erma when I was a teenager growing up on Lenox Avenue in Harlem, New York City. They had moved there from Texas to attend the St. Aloysius Catholic boarding school for girls. The religious nuns who ran the "school considered me a ne'er do well, but the twin sisters accepted me and I became a "lifelong friend of theirs and their family.

Norma studied hard and went on to a long career as a dental hygienist in New York, retiring from Mt. Sinai Hospital in 1995. Her avocation was music, which she studied for many years, to become a talented pianist. With her husband Maurice Loften, she had three accomplished sons, the late Dwight, who had been an accountant in Washington, DC; Rodney, a school superintendent in New Jersey; and Kevin, chairman of the American Hospital Association.

She is also survived by her beloved mother, Cora Anderson, wife of the late Rodney Anderson, who remains in Beaumont, Texas at the wonderful age of 98.

Her loving brother, Charles Anderson, retired from the U.S. Air Force, also resides in Beaumont. His children, the late Vanessa; Francesca; Charles, Jr.; Gina; and Robert were all devoted to their loving aunt, Norma.

God has given the Anderson family an extraordinary faith and unchallenged belief in his

wisdom. Therefore I pray that at this painful time when their beloved Norma has been called home, they will take comfort in the belief that this is God's will. I hope that in the midst of their sadness and helplessness, they will be encouraged by the beautiful memories of her great love and caring spirit.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to join me in recognizing this wonderful American family and bidding farewell to Norma Anderson Loften.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 1044 on Monday, October 15, 2007.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 794, Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill, H.R. 3043, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENT OF  
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-  
TION ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this conference report, including the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill and the Military Construction/Veterans appropriations bill.

I am here to represent the 4th district of Minnesota—that's my job. And my district has made it very clear to me that investing in our communities is a priority.

In fact, most members of the House of Representatives have said they support both of these bills. But there has been a lot of complaining about the process.

I'm a former civics teacher. Part of my work was to teach my students about the separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches of our government.

For those watching today, I want to be very clear about the issues in this debate and the procedure that got us here.

We are in this position because the Administration has adopted a "my way or the highway" approach to governing. The President has steadfastly refused to recognize the constitutional role of Congress in setting our Nation's budget priorities.

And he has ignored the clear message sent by the American people in the last election.

Democrats disagree with the President's priorities. The President proposed to cut education funding. His budget cut special education, teacher training, and Head Start. It also